

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 12 March 2015
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

Present: Jeremy Cope (Vice Chair), Sheila Cope, John Cotton, Glyn Hale, Beverley Hall, Alan Lee, Mike McFarnell, Alan Sencicle, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

1. Apologies Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Derek Leach (Chair), Jean Marsh, Pat Sherratt.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Incorrect spelling of new members name, it should be Suzanne,

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report

Presentation to President. The Athertons were contacted about a gift from The Dover Society in recognition of their support over the years. It was suggested that something for their garden such as an ornament or plant. They said they would give it some consideration. As they are due to attend the meeting on Monday they may indicate what they would like to receive. GH made another suggestion that a gift related to the Green Howards may be appropriate.

The AGM notice has been sent out with the Newsletter. There are two vacancies on the committee. The role of Secretary is also vacant and requires filling by a committee member.

Library consultation. A discussion followed as to the confusion about the submission sent to KCC and a response sent by email to Lorraine Sencicle and DL. KCC may be under the impression the society has made a submission but this is not so. It was agreed to put in a response to be drafted by BH. The draft and any other comments to be sent direct to JC by 23 March.

Port Consultative Forum (PCF).

JC gave a presentation on Dover Big Local (DBL).

Sue Jones (Chair of WCCCTA) gave presentation on Tourism. The points raised are:

- there is a vital need for a paid person to organise and promote tourism in Dover. WCCTA is not the body to do this as it represents the District.
- need for debate/forum to work out future and funding. Tourism is an economic pillar of Dover.
- DBL to get involved, Martina White to contact Sue Jones
- DL is to call a PCF sub-committee to take forward.

The view is that DDC does not have the money for tourism. A Business Levy is a way forward.

Jon Iveson raised the need for a Directory of contacts and skills.

The port lorry traffic congestion was discussed and it was agreed for the need of continual pressure and lobbying until the matter is resolved.

The Magna Carta is coming to Dover in September and help has been requested from The Dover Society. Members would act as stewards/guides

5. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

6. Treasurer's Report

The financial report for this month was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

At the top of the financial statement you will see that a further 25 Reckitt & Benckiser shares gift donated to us on 9 February for the Town Hall fund. The donor wishes to remain anonymous. At the time of donation they were worth £1400.

The monies received in February are:

- £74.00 for subscriptions for the next financial year
- £20.00 donation
- £1.00 for sale of Newsletter.

We paid out

- £63.75 for printing, phone and postage
- £425.88 taken from the projects fund for a new strimmer for use at Cowgate leaving balance of £226.81. The fund is now in deficit. The fund holds £250, money donated to Sylvie Parsons for her planting work, leaving a shortfall of £23.19. However this will be covered at the end of this month by writing back an old cheque of £150.00 not presented for payment. At the start of our new financial year a further £62.50 will be credited from "gift aid".
- £37.00 to The Royal British Legion for two wreaths for use later in the year for Remembrance Services
- £145.99 from the Town Hall fund for Town Hall Leaflets
- £108.00 for two banners, also from the Town Hall fund.

The Wine and Wisdom evening was in surplus by £100.00. As has been customary over the years we have given Clive Taylor a share of this profit for his particular charity Crabble Corn Mill. I am asking this committee to reiterate that we continue this practice and if so what sum should be sent to him. After a short discussion it was agreed to send £75.00.

During last month the Society was authorised to pay out £911.47 by Dover Big Local, from the money we are holding on their behalf. We are now holding £86,335.18 of Dover Big Local funds.

We also paid out £284.23 on behalf of the River Dour Partnership. We are now holding £1,109.59 in their account held by us.

I have received from our insurers Aviva Insurance Ltd arranged by Bluefin Insurance Services Ltd. the invoice for our annual insurance, which takes effect from 1 April. The insurance premium is exactly the same as last year, £251.89 so with the committee's approval I intend to pay them for another year's insurance. This includes cover for Charity Trustees liability of £25,000 and public liability of £5 million pounds. The committee agreed to pay the insurance premium.

Membership Secretary's Report

There are no new members this month. Last allocated number 1222, total members are 484.

8. Projects

- Cowgate – sad news about Barry's death, his funeral is on Wednesday 18 March at 5.20 pm. We continue with the strimming with just a small amount of work left to do. Reminder to be sent to Roger Walton about needles in the cemetery.
- Upper Road, still no action taken place. Reminder by email to be sent.
- Wellington plaque, there are two possible sites, the Harbour House and Old St James or both. Short discussion followed and it was agreed for JC to discuss with DL.
- River Dour – Deborah Gasking has donated Hi Vis vests from proceeds of her music festival. Vests include The Dover Society logo. A volunteer was required for Crabble Corn Mill and a member responded to appeal.
- A response to KCC about the traffic in Dover and drafted by BH was agreed. JC to send off.

9. Refurbishment

- Big Local. LTO has been appointed.
- Tourism was discussed. Jenny Olpin spoke of the need to link local websites to aid tourism and for groups to work together.
- Sylvie Parsons obtaining quotes for irrigation of Market Square Planters. A jumper had damaged one of the planters but had been identified by CCTV.
- Conservation areas and listed buildings need publicising. JC, AL and PS to discuss

- Litter – AS email on blocked drains to Jenny Olpin to be redirected by JC to enable her to write to KCC. SP talked of litter problems at St Edmund's Chapel.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

McF collected £296 for the Town Hall fund at the Dover Film Festival.

11. Social Secretary's Report

The Wine and Wisdom evening was a success. Lessons have been learnt, particularly use of more volunteers.

12. Planning

PS circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March prior to the meeting. MW went through the report on behalf of PS.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

14. Editor's Report

Nothing to report.

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. Any other business

AS not able to organise the supper in April so JC will do it.

McF is organising an event to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE day on 8 May. Rotary Club support was not successful, as they want a big all day event.

A simpler event is planned to take place on the Promenade with a sponsored walk to take place at 12 noon. Should be able to obtain a military band. Would like to do this under the umbrella of The Dover Society. A leaflet was shown advertising the event and DTC are happy to pay for publication. TS proposed to support the event and AL seconded it. The committee voted unanimously and carried the motion.

The Dover Film Festival was shown in the cinema rather than the Town Hall and was very well received. The sound and images were far superior and future films will be shown at the cinema.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 9 April**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.